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OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

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LOGNOTE.....PANAMA BUREAU.....14 April 1986

[ ] USAISC COMMANDER -- Col Robert O. Abney, USA, Commander of USAISC Pnaama, and Richard O. Stumvoll, Chief of Plans and Projects Branch, USAISC Panama, visited the bureau for a tour of the plant and for a discussion of the bureau's communication needs.

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Col Abney said that he estimated that the Panama Automated Relay (PAR) would be deactivated in September or October of 1986. Col Abney guaranteed me that in no case would FBIS Panama bureau be left with no communications. He assured me that the bureau's communications needs would continue to be met by USAISC Panama now and in the future.

Col Abney said that if PAR were to close a quick-fix option would be to route the bureau's current 75-baud mode V autodin circuit on a "tone-pack" through Corozal tech control to a stateside switching center. I asked Col Abney to notify me in writing if that option is required. I promised to do whatever is necessary on my part to expedite it. Col Abney said he expected us to stay with PAR for some months yet but if it became necessary he would provide all the necessary information for FBIS headquarters to petition DCA headquarters for the "tone-pack" in a request for communication support. I asked Col Abney to remember to give us plenty of lead time for any such request as it was imperative that we not lose communications during a change over to a different system. Col Abney agreed.

We then discussed the attempts to activate the mode I Mux Plan equipment. The army techs working on the system have not yet given up all hope of every making it work in its present configuration but the situation does not look hopeful.

Mr. Stumvoll then suggested that the mode I Mux equipment "in its present configuration" probably won't ever work but that he was sure that using different equipment it could work. I asked Mr. Stumvoll to give me written notification of what was wrong with the current Mode I Mux equipment and what equipment we needed to become operational. I said I would pass the information on to FBIS headquarters but that I could guess that my headquarters would be less than enthusiastic about having to purchase additional equipment estimated in excess of \$100K. I explained that FBIS had already purchased the mode I Mux equipment asked for by USAISC Panama in 1980 and that the request for different equipment now could easily be seen as throwing good money after bad still with no guarantee that it would work.

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I then gave Col Abney a briefing on the FBIS mission worldwide and details of Panama Bureau's operation and a tour of the bureau facilities.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION:

Col Abney struck me as a very agreeable intelligent individual with whom we could carry on an honest open discussion of various communications problems. Mr. Stumvoll, as always, seems more prone to buff and bluster and less direct and forthcoming in his discussions.

cc: C/OPS ✓  
C/ESG  
C/FED/ESG  
C/FBIS Commo